2001 and monitored the field trials. The MEC has submitted its report to the GEAC.

The ICAR has also conducted the field trials in 11 locations in Central and Southern zones. Monitoring teams consisting of ICAR scientists, and experts monitored these trials. The ICAR has also submitted its report. GEAC will consider the proposal in its next meeting.

Loan for effluent treatment plants

†209. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to advance loans on easy instalments to industrial units, for installation of effluent treatment plants conforming to environment protection norms;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard, so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No Sir. However, the Government is extending subsidy to the small and medium scale industries for construction of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs). The financing pattern for the CETPs consists of a central subsidy of 25% of the total project cost, a matching state subsidy of 25% of the total project cost, enterpreneurs' contribution of 20% and a loan of 30% from any financial institution.

Performance of Pollution Control Boards

210. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an indepth study has been made of the findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its recent report, highlighting the dismal performance of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards, especially those relating to prevention and control of pollution of water bodies in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details of steps initiated to sensitise and streamline the functioning of Pollution Control Boards, to overcome various inadequacies/

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

discrepancies and achieve their objectives, especially those relaing to implementation of the Water Act, 1974, to help provide safe drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Computroller and Auditor General's report regarding performance of Central and State Polution Control Boards especially those relating to prevention and control of pollution of water bodies in various parts of the country has been studied.

(b) The steps taken include the following:

(i) Periodic interaction meetings are held with the personnel at various levels of the Pollution Control Boards (PCBs)1;

(ii) State Governments have been advised to induct professionals in the Pollution Control Boards;

(iii) Guidelines have been framed for streamlining the procedures for issuance of consent and authorisation by the Pollution Control Boards;

(iv) Technical & financial support has been provided for strengthening of Pollution Control Boards; and

(v) Minimal National Standards for control of pollution from various sources have been laid down by the Central Pollution Control Boards for implementation through the concerned State Pollution Control Boards.

Punishment for cruelty to wild animals

†211. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for drastic punishment to those who commit cruelty against wild animals;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered this demand, so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposals to enhance the penalties for infringement of the provisions of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act are under consideration of the Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.